

REMARKS

Applicants' counsel wishes to thank the Examiner for the opportunity to consult with the Examiner during a telephonic interview on March 23, 2004. During the interview, the Takahashi reference was discussed, along with the Examiner's rejections to the claims. The claims were discussed, including claims 24 and 43. The Examiner agreed that Takahashi does not read on claim 43, but no agreement was reached with regard to claim 24.

Certain portions of the language from claim 43 have been incorporated within each of the independent claims, reflecting that the first and second body portions in claim 1, for example, are selectively nonrotatably coupled to each other. This design is advantageous for a variety of reasons. Applicants' design enables an individual wearer to disengage various parts of the lanyard or attachments thereto in a variety of different manners. Whereas an attachment can be selectively detached from the neck and can rotate on the neck, the first and second body portions are configured to be nonrotatably coupled to each other. Different users enjoy and appreciate different types of connections. This provides diversity, choice, and variation in a lanyard system. Thus, the Applicants' invention is advantageous over prior systems.

In view of the discussion and amendments submitted herein, the Applicants respectfully submit that each of the pending claims is now in condition for allowance. In the event that the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that can be clarified by a telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to initiate the same with the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 5th day of May, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,



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